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Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MED-03 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00
PA-02 DHA-02 SCA-01 OES-06 USIA-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00
AID-05 FDRE-00 DODE-00 /074 W
----------121923Z 020010 /46
R 121304Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2901
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS LENINGRAD 0051

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORS, AMED, UR
SUBJ: SOVIETS EXPERIENCING TYPE B FLU EPIDEMIC

REF: (A) 76 STATE 305298, (B) 76 STATE 307412

1. SUMMARY. THERE IS CURRENTLY A TYPE B FLU EPIDEMIC IN THE SOVIET UNION BUT NO CASE OF SWINE FLU HAS YET EMERGED. END SUMMARY.

2. CONOFF ON JANUARY 12 VISITED DIRECTOR USSR ALL-UNION INFLUENZA INSTITUTE IN LENINGRAD, GEORGIY I. KARPUKHIN, TO INQUIRE ABOUT CURRENT FLU SITUATION IN USSR FOLLOWING REPORTS THAT FLU EPIDEMIC HAD DELAYED LOCAL POST-HOLIDAY SCHOOL OPENINGS. KARPUKHIN CONFIRMED THAT SCHOOL OPENINGS DELAYED FROM JANUARY 10 TO JANUARY 17 DUE TO EXISTENCE OF TYPE B FLU EPIDEMIC IN LENINGRAD. HE ADDED PEIDEMIC HAS EXISTED SINCE MID-DECEMBER, PEAKED JANUARY 4-5, AND IS CURRENTLY IN STATE OF DECLINE. IT AFFECTING ABOUT 5-6 PERCENT OF POPULATION, PREDOMINENTLY CHILDREN (2/3'S TOTAL) ALTHOUGH REACTION AMONG ADULTS MORE SEVERE. EPIDEMIC REPORTEDLY THREE TIMES LESS VIRULENT THAN TYPE A EPIDEMIC DECEMBER 1975-JANUARY 1976. IN SOVIET UNION TYPE B EPIDEMIC USUALLY
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TAKES FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS TO WORK ITS WAY THROUGH COUNTRY (VERSUS MONTH AND A HALF FOR TYPE A) AND CURRENT EPIDEMIC BEGAN IN NORTH IN OCTOBER.

3. ACCORDING KARPUKHIN, SIMILAR LEVEL TYPE B EPIDEMIC EXISTS IN MOSCOW AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, WHO HAVE FINAL JURISDICTION IN SUCH CASES, HAVE ALSO OPTED FOR

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DELAY IN SCHOOL OPENINGS THERE. BALTIC CITIES ARE REPORTEDLY AFFECTED TO LESSER EXTENT. EPIDEMIC IS MAINLY CENTERED IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY AND IT SPREAD IS SPOTTY, WITH SOME AREAS, NOTABLY WESTERN SIBERIA AND PARTS OF SOUTH INCLUDING GEORGIA, STILL VIRTUALLY UNAFFECTED.

4. BASED ON STATISTICAL RECORDS OF PAST YEARS, WHICH KARPUKHIN CLAIMS PERMIT RELIABLE PREDICTABILITY OF FLU TRENDS, NO FURTHER MAJOR FLU OUTBREAK EXPECTED THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, IN URALS, INCLUDING CITY OF SVERDLOVSK, A SECOND LOWER LEVEL TYPE A OUTBREAK HAS FOLLOWED CURRENT EPIDEMIC. KARPUKHIN THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE, BUT NOT CERTAIN, THAT THIS SAME PHENOMENA WOULD APPEAR IN LENINGRAD AND OTHER LARGE CITIES AFFECTED BY EPIDEMIC.

5. RE SWINE FLU, KARPUKHIN EMPHASIZED THAT HE IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH U.S. FLU EXPERTS, HAS BEEN FURNISHED SWINE FLU VACCINE AND HIS INSTITUTE CLOSELY MONITORING SOVIET SWINE FLU SITUATION THROUGH TELEGRAPHIC LINKS WHICH IT MAINTAINS AT KEY POINTS THROUGH-OUT SOVIET UNION. TO DATE, HOWEVER, HE STATES NOT A SINGLE CASE SWINE FLU HAS BEEN RECORDED IN THE SOVIET UNION. KARPUKHIN THEN INQUIRED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION SWINE FLU VACCINATION PROGRAM IN THE U.S. AND POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP GUILLIAUM-BARRE SYNDROME AND WAS BRIEFED ALONG LINES REFTELS.

6. COMMENT: KARPUKHIN EXPRESSED SOME PERSONAL SKEPTICISM
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ABOUT SWINE FLU DANGER. HOWEVER, HE SEEMED BE MAIN-TAINING OBJECTIVE ATTITUDE ON POSSIBILITY SWINE FLU EPIDEMIC, COMMENTED REPEATEDLY ON CLOSE CONTACTS HE HAS WITH BRITISH AND U.S. EXPERTS ON SUBJECT, AND SEEMED WELL INFORMED ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS U.S. SWINE FLU IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, EPIDEMICS, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770160/aaaabzxo.tel
Line Count: 104
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TAGS: PORS, AMED, TBIO, UR, (KARPUKHIN, GEORGIY I)
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